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MARY LINCOLN

A LETTER TO HER COUSIN

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Elizabeth Todd Grimsly

SEPTEMBER 29, 1861

Privately Printed, 1917

September 29th, '61

Executive Mansion

My Dear Lizzie:

I have been intending writing you for some days. I have been quite sick with chills for some days, this is my day of rest so I am sitting up. I am beginning to feel very weak. If they cannot be broken in a few days, Mr. Lincoln wants me to go North and remain until cold weather. Where so much is demanded of me I cannot afford to be delicate, if a different climate will restore my health. If at the close of this week I am still sick, I expect I will go up to Boston, take quarters at the Revere House for two or three weeks and return here in November. I trust however, I may not be under the necessity, yet I am feeling very far from well. September & early in October are always considered unhealthy months here, my racked frame certainly bears evidence to the

fact. Have just received a note from Willis, with all his weaknesses he is kind hearted. Gov. Newell & Halstead are frequently here as who is not? I presume you are aware your brother is elected to Congress. I received a letter from Elizabeth E. the other day. Very kind & aff. yet very characteristic. Said if rents and means permitted, she would like to make us a visit, I believe for a season. I am weary of intrigue, when she is by herself she can be very agreeable, especially when her mind is not dwelling on the merits of fair daughters and a talented son-in-law. Such personages always speak for themselves. I often regret E.P.E. little weaknesses, after all, since my the election she is the only one of my sisters who has appeared to be pleased with our advancement you know this to be so. Notwithstanding Dr. Wallace has received his portion in life from the Administration, yet Frances always remains quiet. E. in her letter said Frances often spoke of Mr. L's kindness in giving him his place. She little knows what a hard battle I had for it, and how near he came getting nothing.

Poor unfortnnate Ann, inasmuch as she possesees such a miserable disposition and so false a tongue. How far dear Lizzie are we removed from such a person. Even if Smith succeeds in being a rich man, what advantage will it be to him, who has gained it in some cases most unjustly, and with such a woman, whom no one respects, whose tongue for so many years, has been considered "no slander" and as a child and young girl could not be outdone in falsehood, "Truly the Leopard cannot change his spots". She is so seldom in my thoughts. I have so much more, that is attractive, both in bodily presence, and my minds eye, to interest me. I grieve for those who have to come in contact with her malice, yet even that is so well understood, the object of her wrath, generally rises, with good people, in proportion to her vindictiveness. What will you name the hill on which I must be placed. Her, putting it on that ground with Mrs. Brown, was only to hide her envious feeling toward you. Tell Ann for me, to quote her own expression. She is becoming still further removed from "Queen Victoria's Court"

How foolish between us to be discussing, such a person. Yet really it is amusing, in how many forms, human nature can appear before us. Nicolay told me, that Caleb Smith, said to him, a few days since that he had just received a letter from Kellogg, of Cin. that he did not know why he had not received his appointment as Consul. Is not the idea preposterous? Did I tell you that ''Hollis'' has been here, came to see me frequently, and always enquired with much interest, after you. The ''Cap'' also dined here a few days since, still as refined and elegant as ever. I have so much to tell you, I do not know, what first to write about. Wykoff, the ''Chevalier,'' enlightened me about Baker's and Julia's proceedings in New York in Feb. Looked a little quizzical, about her not remaining in W. as she expected a long stay and much gayety. Did you say, she only numbered 5 months. I thought she had gently insinuated, when she was here. Hill Lamon, I believe is now in Ill. mustering recruits. I know you will be sorry to hear, that our colored Mantuamaker, Elizabeth, lost her only son and child in the battle of

Lex., Mo. She is heart broken. She is a very remarkable woman herself. The weather is so beautiful, why is it, that we cannot feel well. The air feels very much like the early days when I used to have chills in Ill., those days have passed, and I know I have no cause to grieve over my lot. If the country was only peaceful, all would be well. If I thought, sending your Father, a pass, would bring him here, I would do so with pleasure. Give my best love to them both. Mrs. Don Piatt, calls here in an hour's time. I must mount my white Cachemere and receive her. We now occupy the stately guest room. She spoke last winter of the miserably furnished rooms. I think she will be astonished at the change. I am not well enough to go down. Write very soon and very often to,

your attached Cousin,
Mary Lincoln

P. S. William has given me $3.00 to hand you. I will have it in bill shape, to send you in a few days, when I write next. Strange he called upon you.

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